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The Navy's Role

Throughout history, admirals and generals have found themselves occupying dual roles—that of being fighting men and diplomats at the same time. To play this double part effectively is more important than ever today when cold war may become hot at any moment.

It is a situation in which the U. S. Navy bears a great responsibility, in the opinion of Adm. Jerauld Wright, USN (ret.), who spoke last Friday night at the Foreign Affairs Conference at the Naval Academy.

Touching on the Navy's role in foreign affairs, Admiral Wright said, among other things, that "Our Navy men bear great responsibility in carrying the good will of the United States to other nations."

It becomes vital, then, for the Navy's fighting men also to become ambassadors of good will. As Admiral Wright pointed out, Navy men in foreign ports are more representative of the American way of life than tourists, commercial agents or persons in the diplomatic service.

It is equally important, the Admiral emphasized, for the Navy and the other branches of the armed forces to work together to defend the United States.

"We are actually at war, except for the shooting," he said.

This being the case, the Navy's role in keeping the peace or winning the peace, if necessary, looms exceedingly large.

Those who heard Admiral Wright's address were impressed by his summation of the situation. They were impressed not only by the facts he presented but also by the way in which he presented them. He had a message which we are sure our Navy men and others, will take to heart.